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HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MORE IMPORTANT LIBRARIES IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

IX. GERMISTON (CARNEGIE) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Compiled by S. J. KRITZINGER 1

HISTORY

In 1949 the Germiston Library will be 40 years old and, although an infant in age compared to many other noteworthy South African libraries, it has played an active and important part in the history of the library movement in this country. Its pioneer work, much of it undertaken on the initiative of Mr M. M. Stirling, especially in the fields of rural, school, and non-European services, has to a large extent prepared the way for the more extensive schemes now in progress.

In March 1905 Mr Alfred Knox wrote to the Town Council advocating the establishment of a library and reading room in Germiston but it was not until May 1909 that the necessary resolution was passed and the following capital expenditure was approved:—Building (addition to municipal offices): £378; Furniture and fittings: £170; Books, etc.: £452. Total: £1,000. The library, housed in a room in the municipal offices, was first opened to the public on 28 November 1909. In charge was a librarian with one assistant and the stock consisted of a few hundred volumes. According to an early report the average number of persons borrowing books was 8 per day and the total number of visitors for all purposes was 28.

The need for new premises was soon felt and in 1914 the Library Committee resolved to approach the Council regarding (a) a site for the library building, (b) permission to open negotiations with the Carnegie Trustees, (c) guaranteed income of at least £1,000 a year from the Town Council. 1915 saw the beginning of the "Battle of the

¹ Revised by the Librarian of the Germiston (Carnegie) Public Library. See note in S.Afr. Libr. 13(4)79, Apr. 1946.

Sites"; after seven long years of delays and disappointments the present site was agreed upon, and with grants from the Carnegie Corporation and the Germiston Town Council of £6,000 and £2,369 respectively the present library building was erected and provided with books and fittings. It was finally opened to the public by the mayor of Germiston, Mrs M. Wilson, on 28 October 1922. The membership at the time was 1,007 and the circulation about 200 per day.

In 1937 the municipal grant was increased sufficiently to enable the Library to become entirely free; up till that time it had been free

except for its fiction section.

BOOK-STOCK AND ACCESSIONS

Adult Fiction 18,629 volumes
Non-fiction 18,603 volumes
Fuvenile English 3,377 volumes
Afrikaans 2,563 volumes
Total 43,172 volumes

The non-fiction literature is composed of :-

Bibliography and general 370; Philosophy 546; Religion 700; Sociology 1,997; Science 967; Useful Arts 957; Fine Arts 801; Literature, poetry and drama 2,585; History, travel and biography 8,851; other 1,848. Total 18,603.

During 1947-48, 4,894 volumes were added to the collection.

CATALOGUE AND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The books are classified and arranged according to Dewey and a dictionary catalogue is used. Copies of cards are sent regularly to the State Library for inclusion in the Union Catalogue.

MEMBERSHIP AND CIRCULATION

Adults 6,119, children 2,967.

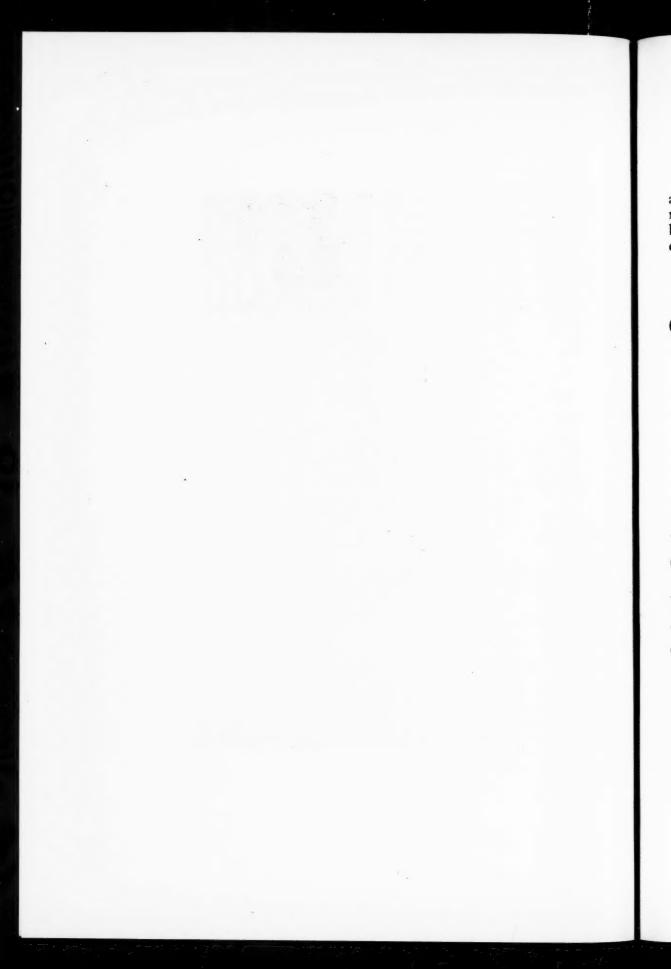
The European population of Germiston is approximately 36,967. During the year 1947-48, 214, 793 volumes were circulated, i.e. adults 177,757, children 37,036.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

For the year ending June 1947 the municipal grant was £3,500; of this amount approximately £1,000 was spent on books. For the present year the annual grant has been raised to £5,550.



THE GERMISTON (CARNEGIE) PUBLIC LIBRARY



HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MORE IMPORTANT LIBRARIES

ACCOMMODATION

The library building was constructed in 1922. It is built of brick and concrete, roofed with iron, and contains an entrance lobby, six rooms and a cellar. At present the accommodation provided by the building is far from adequate and the erection of new premises is being considered by the Council.

STAFF ESTABLISHMENT

The staff now consists of the librarian and ten assistants.

(a) Salaries and Grading

iries ana	Graaing			
Librarian, F. S. A. L. A.			Salary	$f_{5}540x25-f_{5}640$
Assistan	nt no. 1		,,	$\tilde{f}_{3}360 \times 12 - \tilde{f}_{3}420$
"	no. 2		"	\tilde{f}_{300} x12 $-\tilde{f}_{360}$
"	no. 3		"	$\tilde{f}_{300} \times 12 - \tilde{f}_{360}$
"	no. 4		,,	$f_{3}240x12-f_{3}300$
"	no. 5		**	\tilde{f}_{2} 240x12— \tilde{f}_{3} 300
>>	no. 6		"	\tilde{f}_{3} 240x12— \tilde{f}_{3} 300
**	no. 7		>>	$\tilde{f}_{1}180 \times 12 - \tilde{f}_{2}240$
>>	no. 8		"	$\tilde{f}_{1}180 \times 12 - \tilde{f}_{2}240$
"	no. 9		"	$\tilde{f}_{1}180 \times 12 - \tilde{f}_{2}240$
Typist			"	f_{5} 180x12— f_{5} 240

Assistants are promoted to the £240-£300 grade on completion of the Elementary Certificate of the South African Library Association.

(b) Leave

Occasional leave: 28 days per annum on full pay. Vacation leave: 5 weeks on full pay after completion of 5 years' service. Sick leave: 3 months on full pay, thereafter 3 months on half pay during the course of a cycle of 3 years, commencing from date of employment.

(c) Provident Fund

The staff have no superannuation privileges.

CO-OPERATION '

The Library willingly co-operates with other libraries and places its book-stock, with a few exceptions, at the disposal of the State Library's Central Lending Department. Inter-library loans are frequently made and copies of the catalogue cards are sent to the State Library for inclusion in the Union Catalogue.

SPECIAL FEATURES AND SERVICES

(a) Children's Department

Ever since 1918 children have been allowed to borrow books free of charge from the Public Library in Germiston at the rate of one book at a time.

In 1947-48 the circulation of books was: English 21, 407; Afrikaans

15,629.

To be eligible for membership children must be resident in Germiston, or must attend school there. On joining a child is asked to fill in a form, signed by a parent or guardian, guaranteeing payment for books lost or unreasonably damaged. At the moment almost 3,000

children are registered as members.

The Library is housed in a separate room, furnished with special low shelving and tables and chairs to match. Around the room are placed frieze-like notice boards on which are displayed attractive pictures of South African wild life and also pictures illustrating current events and history. A large double-sided notice board placed on the floor of the room is similarly decorated. The Library is making a collection of illustrations and the pictures on the frieze and notice boards are changed regularly.

A very popular feature of the Library is its story-hour which is held at regular intervals. A story is told, one week in English and the next in Afrikaans, either by a member of the Library staff or an interested teacher. The room is packed to capacity on these occasions and almost two hours before starting time children may be seen seated in their

places waiting expectantly for the story to begin.

The present membership is 2,967 and £220 was spent on books during 1946–47.

(b) Germiston Non-European Library

From 1931 to 1945 the Germiston Public Library was the headquarters of the Transvaal Carnegie Non-European Library, under the chairmanship of Mr Stirling. In 1945 the Students' Section of the service was taken over by the Union Education Department, and in December of that year the entire headquarters moved to accommodation made available by the Transvaal Native Education Department in Pretoria.

¹ Succeeded in 1947 by Mr F. A. Borland.

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MORE IMPORTANT LIBRARIES

The Germiston Library retained only the municipal Non-European Library, which serves non-Europeans in the municipal area. This Library is housed in shop premises on the outskirts of the location. The membership at present is 868 and the circulation for the past year was 2,359. During the coming year the Council is to place at the disposal of the Library a building situated inside the location, consisting of two rooms, one of which is to be used as a reading room. The new premises will be more convenient and suitable in every way and it is hoped that the ensuing year will show a substantial increase in membership and circulation.

(c) Transvaal Education Department School Libraries

This is a circulating library operated from the Germiston Library and financed by the Transvaal Education Department. In 1917 the Department approved of a scheme whereby the schools in the Germiston area should be administered by the Library Committee. A grant-in-aid equivalent to 4d. per head of the schools' total enrolment was paid and fresh books were provided several times a year. All existing school libraries were handed over to the Germiston Library to form the nucleus of the school library collection. These were augmented by an initial grant from the Education Department to bring the collection up to the minimum strength required to initiate the scheme, i.e. 40 books for every 100 pupils.

The scheme worked well and was extended in 1921 to include the whole of the East Rand School Board area, and in 1927 the Vereeniging and West Rand School Board areas. The grant from the Department

was then at the rate of 7d. per head per annum.

There are over 100 schools being supplied at the moment and of these 13 are served through the Krugersdorp Public Library. In addition to schools in the areas mentioned there are 33 country schools borrowing books. The books are of a recreational nature and are intended to supplement the stock in the school library. The present grant from the Transvaal Education Department is £1,000; in 1946–47 it was £1,000; and in 1945–46 £600.

(d) Transvaal Rural Free Library

Books are distributed to rural areas throughout the Transvaal, mainly through depots situated in schools, Agricultural Union centres, recreational clubs, etc. In addition there is a service to isolated individual readers who borrow four books at a time free of charge. The service started in 1929, with the aid of a provincial grant, with 13

centres. The membership after the first eighteen months was 1,690 and the circulation 14,191 per annum. The service increased steadily until 1943–44 when 22,207 members were borrowing books from 240 centres and the circulation was 229,568. Since then there has been a gradual decrease as centres are transferred one by one to the rapidly expanding Transvaal Provincial Library. It is hoped that by March 1949 the service will be taken over entirely by the Provincial Library, when the Rural Free Library will cease to exist as such. During the year ending June 1948, 146 centres were supplied with books, the membership was 13,593 and the circulation 149,358. The book-stock is approximately 29,000; the provincial grant for 1947–48 was £2,500.

(e) Hospital Service

A bi-weekly service to patients in the Germiston Hospital has been in operation for over a year and is proving very popular indeed. Voluntary help is given by members of a women's organization and an average of about 700 books are issued per month.

(f) Africana and local collection

A collection of Africana containing about 1,500 items is housed in a separate room, together with pictures, photographs, pamphlets, maps and other material relating to the history and development of the town of Germiston.

LIBRARIANS

Mr H. R. Hill	1909-1913
Mr M. M. Stirling	1913-1931
Mr E. A. Borland	1933-1943
Miss Hazel Mews	1944-1946
Miss D. M. Scott	1946-

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ZULU LITERATURE 1

D. McK. Malcolm

Ex-Chief Inspector of Native Education in Natal

THE Zulus being for the most part an illiterate people, their written literature is still in its infancy. We are indebted to Christian missionaries for the beginnings of it. They were the people who first reduced the language to writing. They did this in the first place in order to further their own missionary activities, but later on they supported the education of the people for the sake of their material advancement. They were the first to write grammars of the language, to compile vocabularies and dictionaries and to translate the Scriptures. They have also written many books of a religious nature for the teaching of the Zulu people in the principles of the Christian religion. This lecture will not, however, deal with religious books.

The very first piece of vernacular writing, by Zulus themselves, which has survived, was done in 1860, when three accounts of the visit of Bishop Colenso to Mpande were published in one book. It contains, for the benefit of the European reader, a glossary of the Zulu words used and a literal English translation.

The first collection of Zulu fairy tales was compiled by the Rev. Henry Callaway, M.D. in 1866 to 1868. The Zulu is parallelled on each page by an English translation. Unfortunately the book has been very long out of print. The same author also wrote *The religious system of the Amazulu*, which appeared in three parts. Part 1, The tradition of the creation, was published in 1868; Part 2, Ancestor worship, in 1869; and Part 3, Divination, in 1870. Part 1 contains an interesting discussion as to the proper Zulu name for God. Dr Callaway favoured the word *uNkulunkulu*, but for many years the Xhosa word, *uTixo*, was used by missionaries, and it is only in recent times that the word *uNkulunkulu* has come into its own.

The first book of any consequence written by a Zulu was entitled Abantu Abannyama Lapha Bavela Ngakhona, by M. M. Fuze. It was published in 1922, and that year appears to mark an epoch in Zulu literature, for since that time an increasing stream of books in Zulu has made its appearance. uZulu ka Malandela, by P. Lamula, was printed in 1924. Both these books deal with the origin of the Zulus, but only as they refer to modern times are they at all accurate. It was also in 1922 that Dr J. L. Dube wrote a booklet entitled Isitha Esikhulu Somuntu Omnyama Nguye Uqobo Lwakhe. It was an attempt to lead the people along the line of self-help. In 1922, too, Ukuphila Kwomzimba by A. T. Bryant, was published. In 1923 uThulasizwe, the first of a series of remarkable books compiled by James Stuart, was published. In 1924 uHlangakhula and uBaxoxele, followed in 1925 by uKhulumethule and in 1926 by uVusezakithi, were published. These

¹ A paper read at the Annual General Meeting of the Natal Branch of the S.A.L.A. in Durban, on 7 September 1948.

books, designed primarily for school use, give a very good cross-section of Zulu life and history during the times of Shaka and the later Zulu kings. Mr James Stuart, who was for many years a magistrate in Zululand, had collected the material for these books from the Zulus themselves. They mostly consist of accounts of eye-witnesses of the outstanding incidents of the period. They give a very good account of the exploits of some of the Zulu heroes such as uZulu kaNogandaya, uMvundlana kaMenziwa, uNdengezi kaKhuzwayo, uNyambose ka-Manqondo, uDiyikana kaHlakanyana and others. The description of Dingane's kraal at uMgungundlovu is the best and most accurate available. They contain many interesting and little-known details of Zulu life and should be studied carefully by all students of Zulu affairs. They are also interspersed by fairy tales and Izibongo. The latter are the eulogies of people of note, including the kings themselves, and are the only form of poetry indigenous to the Zulus. They are based on rhythm rather than on rhyme. Mr Stuart later translated some of Aesop's Fables into Zulu and they appeared in two small booklets entitled Kwesukela and uVulinggondo (1929?).

Amongst the Zulu writers of recent years, R. R. Dhlomo is one of the most noted. He began by writing two books for school use, very much on the lines of those compiled by Mr Stuart. They were called *Izikhali Zanamuhla* (1935?) and *Ukwazi Kuyathuthukisa* (1937?). Then he took to biography and wrote the lives of the Zulu Kings Shaka, Dingane and Mpande. The characters are well drawn and the facts given are fairly authentic, as they have been based on Bird's *Annals of Natal*. His Zulu style is fluent and the language idiomatic without being pedantic. He has recently written two novels. One, *Indlela Yaɓaɓi* gives a rather lurid picture of the seamy side of Zulu life in Johannesburg. The other, *Nomalanga kaNdendezi* is a more normal kind of character study of Zulu life in Natal.

Another Zulu who has made a considerable contribution to Zulu literature is the late Dr B. W. Vilakazi. He began with fiction in a story called Noma Nini (1935). The scene is laid at the Mission station at Groutville in the days of Mpande. A girl, who as a child was a refugee from Zululand, gives a promise to a young man who is going off to work in Durban, to wait for him "for ever". The fortunes of both are told in an interesting way. The young man works for some years before he accumulates enough wealth to buy the necessary cattle for lobolo. Meanwhile the girl grows up and embraces Christianity. She works in the household of the missionary. Then another man comes on the scene and makes love to her, and as he is an estimable fellow, the missionary encourages the match. She has heard nothing from her lover and as the years slip past she begins to doubt his faithfulness, and eventually she agrees to marry the man on the spot and the wedding day is fixed. Before this, however, her former lover with his hard-earned savings on him starts back from Durban to go and purchase his cattle. On the first night out, while he is asleep under a tree, he is set upon

ZULU LITERATURE

by bandits, who, however, fail to get his money for he had taken the precaution to hide it before going to sleep. They leave him half dead and he is found by a passing ox cart and attended to. He recovers his strength and his money and arrives on the scene at Groutville in time to rescue the maiden from her predicament. With the help of a girl friend she manages to find a suitable wife for her second suitor, and everything ends happily.

Dr Vilakazi is the only Zulu who has attempted to write poetry on any scale, and his first collection of poems was published in the Bantu treasury series under the title of Inkondlo kaZulu (1935). It does not confine itself to the heroic type of izibongo, although the technique used is founded upon the same type of rhythm. The subjects range from a description of the Xhosa cattle-killing to an ode to the South African lark, the scarlet throated Macronyx croceus. are also poems on Shaka, the Victoria Falls and on persons known and imaginary. Dr Vilakazi also wrote a biography of Dingiswayo kaJobe, the chief of the Mthethwa tribe, to whom may be attributed the rise of Zulu military power, for it was to him that Shaka was indebted for his training in military strategy. Subsequently he wrote another book of poems called Amal' Ezulu (1945) and a novel Nje Nempela both of which show an advance upon his previous work. The poems are concerned largely with the social questions of the day as they affect the Zulu people. Vilakazi's style tends to the archaic and is very often obscurantist. To read his works is, nevertheless, a good exercise in the older forms of Zulu.

Another Zulu author whose work is worthy of special mention is E. A. Made, who has translated some of the stories from Foundation of history, which he calls Amaqhawe Omlando (1940). This work is very well done. He has written a novel called Indlafa yaseHarrisdale (1940). This is the story of a Zulu who works hard and buys a small farm on which he is very successful. He has one son for whom he has great ambitions, and he wants to make him a worthy heir of his farm "Harrisdale". So he sends him to a boarding school to learn agriculture. When the boy comes home his father is very disappointed in him. He seems to have no desire beyond dressing up in the suits which his father bought for him, and loafing around with other young men. His father can see that he will very soon lose his inheritance as he appears to have no taste for farming, nor for anything but having a good time. He, therefore, decides upon drastic action, and, in spite of the protests and tears of the boy's mother, he gives him a long lecture on industry and perseverance, gives him £25 in cash, and tells him to go and not come back home again until he has doubled his father's money. The father feels that he has been pampered and spoilt and that the only thing that will save him is that he should be thrown out upon an unsympathetic world and there learn to rely upon his own resources. The boy, who has good stuff in him, in spite of the indulgence with which his parents have treated him, determines that he will not use his father's money unless he sees a reasonable prospect of increasing it. He has to walk a

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hundred miles to the nearest town and there he has many sobering experiences. including arrest for being illegally on the premises of a European. He manages to keep himself, but he has continually before him the problem of how he is going to increase his father's money. He gains the confidence of a European to whom he tells his dilemma. The white man advises him to begin trading in poultry, so he buys fowls in the reserves of Zululand and sends them to market in urban centres, thus making a considerable profit. This he does for some months until he has enough to buy oxen, and in these he trades until he has gained a capital of £150. A great homesickness now seizes him and so he returns home and tells his parents his adventures. He has now had enough of the outside world and is prepared to settle down to hard work and frugal living on the home farm, and so the story ends. Made has also written a book of essays on the social problems of the Zulu to-day. It is called *Ubuwula Bexoxo*, founded on the fable of the frog that attempted to puff itself up to the size of an ox. He deals with loneliness, begging, sexual relations, slavish imitation, ancestor worship, Christianity and other topics. Made's style is rather involved and he would be well advised to practice brevity and clarity of expression. His ideas are generally sound but they are set forth with too much wordiness and circumlocution.

In Zulu folk-lore it is Cakijana who is the clever creature that gets the better of all other animals in his dealings with them. How he out-wits them and gets away with it is shown in a book called Cakijana Bogcololo written by Mbatha and Mdhladhla (1927). Zulu custom is dealt with by P. Lamula in Isabelo sika-Zulu (1936), by T. Z. Masondo in Amasiko EsiZulu and by M. J. Mpanza in Gugabadele. In Isabelo sikaZulu Lamula not only touches on custom but also has quite a good collection of proverbs, some fairy stories, names of birds and snakes and animals and also an account of the omens that are regarded as significant by Zulus. He also mentions medicine and the praises of the kings. Both Masondo's and Mpanza's books deal only with the better known customs. Under the title of *uQamunda* (1940) T. Z. Masondo also wrote a collection of stories of the traditional fairy tale type. Masondo also collaborated with Molefe in writing a short history of South Africa called Ezomdabu Wezizwe Zabansundu. It gives an outline of the migrations which resulted in the present distribution of the Bantu in South Africa. A biography of Mohlomi, the celebrated Basuto hero, was written by N. S. Luthango and gives some of the main incidents in his rather remarkable life. F. L. Ntuli has contributed to Zulu literature by writing Izinganekwane Nezindaba Ezindala (1939), which is a small collection of fairy stories and a description of the life of a Zulu from boyhood upwards. He has also translated Rider Haggard's romance called Nada the Lily into Zulu under the title Umbuso kaShaka (1928?). Another romance that has been translated into Zulu, with the title of uNkosibomvu (1938), is that of P. A. Stuart called An African Attila. The Zulu of the latter is far superior to that of the former, and gives a

ZULU LITERATURE

rather exaggerated picture of the times of Shaka. A book that is much nearer to a true description of the times is *Insila kaShaka* (1933), by Dr J. L. Duße. The body servant of the King is in very intimate contact with him and can give details which are not known to the general public. One of the earlier stories is one written by Violet Duße called *Wozanazo* (1935). They are the adventures of one Poshozwayo and are quite interesting for children.

Amongst the later writers who show promise must be mentioned G. S. Mthiya, who has written *Ilanga likaNgqelebana* (1939), a collection of short stories, and *uVelengazi*, a book of advice on thrift and wise behaviour generally. M. R. Mseleku's *uVumindaba* and R. H. Mthembu's *uMamazane* both give promise of better things to come. E. I. S. Mdhladhla in his collection of articles in *uMgcogcoma* also indicates that we may expect something more and of a more sustained character from him. It only remains to mention *uGubudele Namazimuzimu*, by Nimrod Ndebele (1941). It is the only published attempt at a Zulu play and is founded on the well-known fairy tale. It has quite a number of dramatic situations in it.

Zulu literature will not make any great strides until there is a Zulu reading public. At present writers cannot find a publisher unless what they write can be used in the schools. This limits their scope tremendously. The Zulu is not a reader. He would much rather sing or talk or dance.

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 - -U6uwula 6exoxo. ibid. [1946]. 213p. 18cm. (The foolishness of the frog).
- Mahlobo, D. Umbubuli. Pietermaritzburg, Tarboton and Mitchell, (1948). 182p. 184cm. (The complainer).
- MALCOLM, D. McK. Ezasekhaya: incwadi yaɓantwana ɓesikole aseɓeqede "Ukucathula"... imifanekiso yenziwe ngu R. Crispe, etc. London, Longmans, 1935. 64p. illus. 19cm. (Stories of home).
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- Masondo, T. Z. Amasiko esiZulu. ibid. [1945] 84p. (Customs of the Zulus). —Uqamunda. ibid. (1940). 165p. illus. 18cm. (Reader).
- MBATA, Alban Hamilton S. and Garland Clement S. Mdhladhla. Ucakijana Bogcololo umpepeti wezinduku zabafo. London, Simpkin, Marshall, 1927. 91p illus. 18cm. (Fables about Uchakijana Bogcololo).
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 - fighting).

 —Uthathezakho. Newcastle, Newcastle advertiser, (1938). 74p. illus. 18½cm. (Take your sticks).
- MDONTSWA, A. D. Unkom'ikhal' Ihlahlelwa. Mariannhill, Mission press, 1934. 63p. 18½cm. (Story of Mzwangedwa and his children).
- MHLONGO, Edwin Lazarus. Utholakele; izithombe zidwetshwe ngu—H. Polson, esinye senziwe ngu—O. Silburn. Pietermaritzburg, Shuter and Shooter, (1940). 79p. illus. 18cm. (She is found: life of Tholakele).
- Molefe, A. I. Usambulele; izithombe zemifanekiso zenziwe ngu-Gerard Bhengu; (3. ed.) ibid. (1941). 124p. illus. 18½cm. (Reveal it to us).

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MPANZA M. J. UGuqabadele. (Privately printed). [1930] 88p. (Zulu customs). MTEMBU, Josibia. Uvelabahleke abantwana, etc. Newcastle, Newcastle advertiser, [193?]. 80p. illus. 18½cm. (When he appears the children laugh).

MTHIYA, G. S. Ilanga likaNgqelebana; izithombe zokufanekisa zenziwe ngu Wilson Mdlalose. Pietermaritzburg, Shuter and Shooter, (1939). 146p. illus. 18cm. (Readers: The sun of Ngqelebana).

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Myburgh, A. C. EzakwaZulu: 'n volkekundige beskrywing van die Zoeloe in die volkstaal. Johannesburg, Afrikaanse pers, [1943]. 313p. 21½cm.

NTULI, F. L. Izinganekwane nezinda6a ezindala. London, Longmans, (1939). vii, 84p. illus. 18cm. (Nursery and old tales).

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—uHlangakula—incwadi ye zindaba za Bantu ba kwa Zulu, na ba seNatala. ibid. 1924. 160p. illus. 18½cm. (Let the nation grow).

—uKulumetule incwadi ye zindaba za Bantu ba kwa Zulu, na ba seNatala, etc. ibid. 1925. 240p. illus., port. 18½cm. (Handing down traditions).

—uTulasizwe—incwadi ye zindaba za Bantu ba kwa Zulu, na ba seNatala. ibid. 1923. 123p. illus. 18½cm. (Keep quiet; let's hear).

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YALO, J. S. Akusenjalo. ibid. [1946]. 120p. (It is not as it was).

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STEYN, N. P. J. Mvulane, a play. Nationale pers, [1941]. 62p. 18cm.

TRACEY, Hugh. Chief above and chief below: a musical play for Africans, based on a Zulu legend, by Hugh Tracey and K. E. Masinga; illus. by E. F. Watkins. Pietermaritzburg, Shuter and Shooter, (forew. 1944). 95p. 22½cm.

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Fuze, Magema M. Abantu abamnyama, lapa bavela ngakona. Pietermaritzburg, City printing works, 1922. xv, 253, iiip. 19cm. (Bantu people and where they came from).

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- COLENSO, J. W. First steps in Zulu. 2. ed. Pietermaritzburg, Davis and sons, 1871. 21., 156p. 183cm.
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BRITISH BOOK EXHIBITION

In collaboration with the British Council, the United Kingdom Information Office and the Imprint Society recently exhibited, at the Johannesburg Public Library, a comprehensive collection of British books.

Over 1,800 volumes were shown, on subjects ranging from fine printing to town planning and architecture, through agriculture and veterinary science,

medicine, and literary criticism.

The nucleus of the exhibition was a selection of rare and fine editions produced by English presses during the last fifty years, including examples from the Kelmscott, Doves, Ashendene, and other famous presses. These were supported by technical works on the crafts of printing, lettering, and bookbinding.

Around all these, the heart of the whole array of books on view, were ranged the products of British book-printers and publishers of the present day. Here are some of the larger categories, with the number of books displayed in each: Medicine (230), Science and Industry (270), The Arts (120), Children's Books

(220), Nature and Country Life (160).

The Children's Book section is being re-exhibited during November at the Johannesburg Public Library. The entire exhibition had a most successful season in Kimberley during October under the auspices of a newly-formed branch of the South African Association of Arts. It will also visit East London in January of next year, and it is hoped to show it at Cape Town, Durban, and Pietermaritzburg.

A suggestion has been made that exhibitions of this nature and importance, which the British Council is willing to arrange at least once a year, could be given wider publicity and display throughout the Union by inviting the co-operation

of the South African Library Association.

There are already three bodies concerned in South Africa: the United Kingdom Information Office, the Imprint Society, and the South African Association of Arts; but it is felt that librarians in the larger centres could help in a most practical way by arranging for the books to be shown on their premises. No more appropriate setting, surely, could be found.

In the meantime, this splendid collection of books is still in the country, and has brought home to many the high standard of British publishing and book production, steadily maintained and improved in the face of what must often have

seemed almost overwhelming difficulties.

S.A.M.

EDITORSHIP

On the resignation of the Hon. Editor of South African libraries the Administrative Council of the South African Library Association has appointed Miss Hazel Mews, M.A., F.L.A., Officer in Charge of the Library and Information Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, to succeed her. Miss Mews has had extensive experience of library and bibliographical work both in England and in this country, having at different times been Librarian in the Research Department of the Union of Post Officer Workers, London, Librarian to the Library Association and Assistant Editor of the Library association record, Secretary to the Chairman of the Nonesuch Press, assistant in charge of the Municipal Reference Library at the Johannebsurg Public Library, Librarian of the Industrial Development Corporation, Librarian of the Germiston Public Library, and a member of the Committee first of the Southern Transvaal Branch and later of the Northern Transvaal Branch of the South African Library Association, and tutor and examiner in Bibliography for the Association. Miss Mews will take over from Volume 16, No. 3.

REDAKSIE

MEJ. Hazel Mews, M.A., F.L.A., Beampte belas met die Beheer van die Biblioteek en Inligtingsburo van die Wetenskaplike en Nywerheidna vorsingsraad, is deur die Administratiewe Raad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging benoem as opvolgster van die Ere-Redaktrise, wat bedank het. Mej. Mews het uitgebriede ondervinding van biblioteekwerk en bibliografiese werk in Engeland sowel as hier te lande; sy was agtereenvolgens Bibliotekaresse van die Navorsingsafdeling van die Bond van Poskantoorbeamptes te Londen, Bibliotekaresse van die Library Association (Londen) en Assistent-Redaktrise van die Library association record, Sekretaresse van die Voorsitter van die Nonesuch Press, assistente met toesig oor die Munisipale Naslaanbiblioteek op die Johannesburgse Openbare Biblioteek, Bibliotekaresse van die Nywerheidsontwikkelingskorporasie, Bibliotekaresse van die Germistonse Openbare Biblioteek. Sy het ook al opgetree as lid van die Komitee eers van die Suid-Transvaalse Tak en later van die Noord-Transvaalse Tak van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging, en kursusleier en eksaminatrise in Bibliografie vir die Vereniging. Mej. Mews aanvaar die redakteurskap met Deel 16, no. 3.

UNESCO-IFLA

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR LIBRARIANS

UNESCO has lost no time translating into deeds at least one of the library objectives propounded at its Second General Meeting in Mexico in 1947. In collaboration with the International Federation of Library Associations it is organizing a first International Summer School for Librarians, to be held in Manchester and London from 2 to 28 September 1948.

The School has been planned on ambitious lines, wide vision being coupled with a realistic understanding of the issues involved. The Acting Head of UNESCO's Public Libraries Department, in bringing the School to our notice, writes:—

"UNESCO is founded on the conviction that since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed. In the present uneasy and restless times UNESCO is making every effort, within its limited resources, to see that these defences are constructed through the advancement and diffusion of education, science and culture. There are various means for carrying out this mission, and certainly one of immense potentiality is the public library, with its tremendous possibilities for popular education and the development of an understanding among its patrons of the peoples and thoughts of other nations. Public libraries can—and of course many now do—make this valuable contribution to international understanding by having liberal, unbiassed book selection policies, which permit purchase of the best expositions of various points of view on controversial subjects; by making these books on different sides of important issues easily available to all members of the population regardless of age, occupation, creed, class or race; by encouraging tolerance of the opinions and mores of others through discussion groups and similar adult education activities; and in general by being democratically controlled and operated. The UNESCO-IFLA International Summer School for Librarians is intended primarily to explore the ways in which public libraries can do this important job most effectively; and later to publish and disseminate the findings of the school as widely as possible so that librarians throughout the world will be aided in their task of constructing the defences of peace in the minds of men."

South African interest in the project will be whetted by the fact that Mr Varley, President of the South African Library Association, is likely to attend, and the fact that the Council of the Association has recently passed a resolution "that in view of the great importance of libraries in the activities of UNESCO

¹ Cf. S.Afr. Libr. 15(4) 115-17, Apr. 1948, and Unesco bulletin for libraries, 1(8) 218-20, 2(1)2-4, 2(3) 78, Nov. 1947, Jan., Mar. 1948.

the Union Government be urged to insure that the S.A. delegation to UNESCO conferences include at least one member technically qualified and experienced in South African library methods and affairs".

Below we give the prospectus of the School (UNESCO circular No. CL/97, Paris, 3 May 1948) slightly abbreviated.

UNESCO-IFLA

International Summer School for Librarians

Basic theme:

Public libraries, with particular emphasis on their services to popular education and the promotion of international understanding.

General purposes:

- 1. To examine ways in which public libraries can become more effective centres of popular and fundamental education.
- 2. To explore solutions of basic library development problems, particularly in reconstruction countries, which must be worked out before public library educational programmes can be completely effective.
- 3. To increase the awareness among participants of the aims of UNESCO, especially in relation to public libraries as centres for education in international understanding; and to enable UNESCO to form a clearer picture of public library problems in the various countries.
- 4. To provide the students with an experience in international living and learning.

Qualifications of participants:

The school is being planned to meet needs of men and women who have already had some library training and experience, who are in library employment and are anxious, able and in a position to influence library, especially public library, development in their countries.

It will be limited to approximately fifty participants and preference will be given to qualified applicants from European countries, and particularly from those in which post-war reconstruction of educational, cultural and scientific institutions is most urgent . . . Applications from other areas of the world will, however, be welcomed and will be given careful consideration, in order to secure a wide-spread and balanced representation . . . Choice of participants will be made . . . with special regard to students who are :—

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR LIBRARIANS

1. Not more than 40 years of age (in general preference will be given younger candidates, but consideration will be accorded to those whose careers have been interrupted by the war);

2. Conversant with English or French; preferably both (an adequate working

knowledge of at least one of the two languages is essential);

3. Currently employed in librarianship, preferably public librarianship;

4. Potential leaders in library development in their own countries.

Method and content of the School:

The services and programmes which contribute to making public libraries effective centres of popular education and international understanding will be explored, then, after selection of the most important, treated thoroughly by small study groups. The groups will be led by outstanding librarians, who will be responsible for drafting detailed work plans, leading discussions, assigning reports and scheduling individual conferences as required. As members of specific groups, participants will be given an opportunity to work on either collective or individual projects within the framework set. In addition, distinguished librarians and prominent lecturers in related fields will be invited to speak to the whole groups; documentary films will be shown; and visits to libraries arranged.

As far as possible, participants will be encouraged to share in the selection of topics for discussion. In general the course of study will spotlight the way in which public libraries can contribute to popular education and international

understanding,

Directly, by study of such questions as:

1. The philosophy of public librarianship.

2. Book selection policies.

3. The development of extension services.

4. Adult education group programmes and readers' advisory services.

5. Relations with other educational institutions and special social groups.

6. Public libraries work for children and adolescents.

Indirectly, by reference to current best practice in

1. The organization and administration of public libraries.

2. Systematic technical processes.

3. Building planning and equipment.

4. Personnel training.

5. Public library finance.

Publications:

It is expected that study groups and individual participants will produce materials which the school will recommend for publication. Such materials will include:

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1. Articles on library development in various countries.

(a) Each participant is requested to write and bring to the school for discussion a paper of approximately 1,500 words on some aspect of public library development in his country.

(b) During the final week of the school the students will be asked to prepare evaluations of their own public library services in the light of what has

been learned at the school.

2. Group reports embodying information collected and conclusions reached by particular study groups.

3. Reports on projects undertaken by individual participants.

4. Transcripts or summaries of lectures.

Certain of the materials produced at the school may be published through arrangements to be made by UNESCO for use in a number of countries. It is also expected that the governments sending participants to the school will make provision for the publication of materials their representatives have prepared with a view to use in their own countries. They may also wish to adapt and publish materials developed by participants from other countries.

Financial arrangements:

The school will be mainly financed from UNESCO funds, and there will be no tuition fees. Room and board of students from member states will be borne by UNESCO and the British Government. Governments of participating states are expected to arrange for travel to Manchester and return, and for incidental expenses of students selected.

Follow-up

By students. It is hoped that governments will assist participants in making known in their own countries the results of the school by consultation with groups of librarians, educators and public officials; by articles in library and general periodicals; by radio broadcasts, etc.

By UNESCO. The Secretariat will draft a co-ordinated programme of follow-

up activities, the main purposes of which will be -

1. To compile, edit and assist in the publication of selected materials produced at the school.

2. To aid participants in working out their own programmes after return to their countries, through the provision of relevant materials and guidance as required.

3. To publicize widely the results of significant experiments undertaken by

former members of the school.

BOOK REVIEWS

Ferm, V., ed. Religion in the twentieth century. New York, Philosophical library, 1948. 420p. and index. \$5.

The first impression that one gets on looking at the title is that here is a bird's eye view of present day religion. Actually it is one of a series of compilations all under the generic title of *The twentieth century series*. One finds that the editor has published a number of works which fall into the category of compilations. One wonders whether such a compilation as *Religion in the twentieth century* serves any definite purpose, meets any

immediate need, when there is such a paper shortage.

There are twenty-seven chapters each devoted to a particular belief. The first chapter after the editor's preface is on Hinduism, and the twenty-second is on Ethical Culture, by Henry Neumann. Each of these chapters gives a brief historical sketch of the development of the faith up to date, but obviously there can be nothing new in such brief sketches, and longer or shorter such sketches are available in Hastings's Encyclopedia of religion and ethics. When one comes to the newer beliefs such as the Salvation Army, Christian Science and Jehovah's Witnesses, the book does fill a need, but then there are only six such chapters.

One wonders how impartial are the views set out, or whether they are merely ex parte ones, when in the Bibliography to Christian Science one finds no mention of Hall Fisher's book Our new religion. One feels that it should be there as a corrective to the one-sided

presentation of Christian Science in this chapter.

The chapter on Jehovah's Witnesses is of special interest to Africa, where the sect is also known as The Watch Tower Movement. Those who have been able to see and read the banned books by Judge Rutherford, a fanatical supporter of the movement, must wonder what good or what purpose they serve as a religion. From the Bibliography are omitted such books as *Enemies*, which is a violent attack on the Roman Catholic Church, and another called *Government*, declaring that the British Government is unsatisfactory at home and abroad.

Except for the summaries of the newer movements there is nothing to justify the book. As a means for quick, journalistic reference it may find a place on the book-shelf of a free-lance journalist.

M. D. W. Jeffreys.

Bradford, Samuel C. Documentation. London, Crosby Lockwood, 1948. 156p. 10s. 6d. One of the most valuable by-products of World War II is an increased awareness of the importance of organizing scientific literature for greater use. The Royal Society Empire Scientific Conference (1946) and the more recent Scientific Information Conference have focussed attention on these problems. Thus to some librarians and scientists the name Bradford will be known as that of a pioneer, the creator in its modern form of the Science Museum Library in London and the powerful advocate of the Universal Decimal Classification, through the British Society for International Bibliography of which he is the President.

His work deserves to be more widely known both in the library and in the laboratory. The book under review makes this possible and it is at the same time the first adequate treatment of documentation in English. Bradford defines documentation as "the art of collecting, classifying and making readily accessible the records of all kinds of intellectual activity", but deals more specifically with that part of record which appears in scientific periodicals.

In the main two broad topics are covered, the organization of special libraries and information services in the sciences and technology, and the complex of problems involved

in abstracting, subject indexing and classifying. The nature and extent of disorder in bibliography or "documentary chaos" as he calls it, is the field in which Bradford has done statistical research. A chapter is devoted to the theoretical deduction of his law of the scattering of papers on specific subjects. At the Science Museum Library where about 200 periodical parts are received every day the validity of the law was empirically verified. Its consequences are very serious as he is able to show that "less than half the useful papers are noticed in the current abstracting and indexing periodicals". The rest are lost to all intents and purposes. He outlines a plan for scientific documentation which would completely cover the 15,000 useful scientific periodicals that are published.

An important, though not indispensable part of the scheme is a uniform classification system of universal application. Thus a large section is devoted to the Universal Decimal Classification, its origin, present use and great potentialities. The chapter on the alphabetical subject index points out the weakness, in fact the futilities of this type of index. Although his argument refers to the subject indexing of periodicals it has equal relevance for the dictionary catalogue. For students the special value of this book lies in providing the first easily accessible account of the U.D.C. in English. It is, therefore, a pity that no evaluation in comparison with the Library of Congress or Bliss Classification was included. Another addition that I should like to suggest is an index.

Documentation is a book which every librarian should study. In library schools it can provide a corrective in as much as most students entering the profession tend to have a literary or humanistic background. In importance it can be coupled with Savage's Manual of book classification (1946). Certainly these two books are the products of a

high level of achievement in the general and the special library.

HERBERT COBLANS.

Wiles, C.C. The Tale of a Library (1827–1948). Grahamstown, Grocott & Sherry, 1948. illus. 8, 39p.

The centenary of the Grahamstown Public Library, founded in 1842, was allowed to pass almost unnoticed at the time, but now this excellent booklet has appeared to give more than a mere history of the Library. The Chairman of the Library Committee traces the origin, development and progress of the Library in relation to its environment and in this way we get interesting glimpses of the intellectual life of Grahamstown over more than a century. And a very useful contribution this publication is to the meagre literature available on public libraries in South Africa in the nineteenth century. Recently an account appeared of the Swellendam Public Library, established 1838, but little has been published about other libraries such as George (est. 1840), Graaff-Reinet (1847), and Uitenhage (1847). The story of these libraries covers an important period of South Africa's growth and would afford us a better insight into one aspect of the cultural history of this country.

Mr J. H. Hofmeyer has contributed a foreword to Mr Wiles's book, of which he says "it gives a picture from a somewhat unusual angle of the transition of an isolated settlement, where the frontier spirit prevailed, into a cultural centre with breadth of interests and maturity of outlook . . . and at the same time the struggles of the Library to find a secure basis were typical of the difficulty in a pioneering community of securing for

the spiritual and cultural values their rightful place".

The Library was started as a company which issued 200 shares at £5 and lived a hand to mouth existence for many years, ending in the sale of the whole collection in 1863

² Rothmann, M. E. ²n Ou biblioteek. (In S. Afr. Bibl. 15(2)65-68 Okt. 1947.) Cf. also the series Historical survey of the more important libraries in the Union. S. Afr. Libr. 13(4) Apr. 1946+.

BOOK REVIEWS

to two private individuals. Subsequently the subscribers raised money, bought back

the books and reopened the Library.

To-day's librarians will be horrified to learn that in 1863 the librarian worked a 64 hour week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, with short breaks for meals. The Library was evidently a real social centre in the 1860's, even providing a chess board and chess men for the use of subscribers. A fact which will interest South African librarians is that as long ago as 1894, the Library started having the binding of its books done by Cedric Chivers of Bath, an arrangement which is still in operation. The Grahamstown Library must have been one of the earliest in South Africa to be classified according to the Dewey decimal scheme (1905), the Natal Society Library in Pietermaritzburg following suit in 1906.

Many well-known men have been connected with the Library Committee of this Library, including Sir John Kotze, the judge; Francis Carey Slater, the poet; Sir George Cory, the historian; Judge P. C. Gane; Hon. A. Wilmot, the Cape historian; as well as Archdeacon H. M. White, a grand-nephew of White of Selborne; Archdeacon (later Bishop) N. J. Merriman, the father of John X. Merriman; Frederick I'Ons, the famous artist; and Robert Godlonton, journalist and publisher. Large bequests and donations seem to have been rare in the nineteenth century, the most important being that of £100 bequeathed by Hon. William Porter, the Attorney-General, in 1880.

Mr Wiles has brought many interesting facts to light and has succeeded in presenting a vivid picture of the determination with which successive committees struggled with inadequate finance and poor support. His account makes lively reading for he has tried

to show the Library in its setting of time, place and people.

R.F.M.I.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Office of information. The story of UNRRA. (Washington, D.C., U.N.R.R.A., 1948). 48 p. illus. 21.5cm. paper.

A popular outline of the work of UNRRA, which every library should find useful.

South African Library Association. Aspects of library work in South Africa: being papers read at the Cape Town conference of the South African library association (23–25 Sept. 1947). Kaapstad, Balkema, 1948. 4p. 1., 126p. 24cm. paper. 10s.

(postage 3d.).

The papers read at this Conference were considered to be of such a high order that the members present recommended their publication in full, instead of only a few being selected for printing in South African libraries as in the past. And indeed, apart from the significance of the subject matter, the standard of exposition, each paper in its own distinctive style, makes the volume a pleasure to read. (Regrettably the effect is slightly marred by a number of misprints and other minor infelicities of production, which may be put down to the hazards of printing at a distance of 6,000 miles from authors and editors).

Although not planned as a co-ordinated whole the papers present a conspectus of South African librarianship, which indicates that the profession is set on its course in no uncertain manner. The issues outlined in the President's programme *Towards a national library service* are elaborated in the several papers that follow. Mr R. M. Immel-

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man discusses The status of librarianship as a profession, and Di F. G. van der Riet gives pointers for Library co-operation and specialization. Miss H. Mews's paper on Scientific information—an international affair gains added significance from the Royal Society Scientific Information Conference in June 1948, at which she was a delegate. Mr Holdsworth on Book selection for small libraries should be an inspiration to those who are loth to forsake metropolitan centres for humbler regions, while Mr Borland, going beyond Choosing books for a library system serving rural areas, gives some intimate glimpses into the human side of rural library work. Special types of library are dealt with by Mr K. C. Johnson (Non-European libraries), Miss E. Taylor and Miss E. Dixon (Children's libraries), Mr S. J. Kritzinger (Government department libraries) and Mr Immelman (a proposal for the establishment of state information libraries abroad). Librarians of every type and grade will want to refer to this volume again and again as a record of what is being done and a reminder of what lies ahead.

E.H.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Ma. Reference books; a brief guide for students and other users of the Library, comp. by Mary Neill Barton, etc. Baltimore, The Library, 1947. 94 p. illus. 20cm. paper. 75cts. (50 cts. each in quantities of 10 or more).

The booklet is divided into two parts: Reference books general in scope; and Reference books in special subjects. The first part includes Indexes, Encyclopaedias, Year-books, Dictionaries, Maps, atlases and gazetteers, and Bibliographies. It was written for the users of the Enoch Pratt Library, but may prove useful to students and the more earnest readers of our public libraries, as well as librarians of smaller public libraries. It lists only the most important works. Each section is introduced by a short note on the type of book dealt with and each entry has a descriptive annotation.

Estonian Information Centre. Stockholm. Estonia: basic facts on geography, history and economy; (comp. by E. Kareda, E. Blumfeldt, A. Rei, Ed. Poom). Stockholm, Estonian information centre, 1948. (16) p. map. 23cm. paper. Kr. 1. 50.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS IN LIBRARIANSHIP 1947-48

Supplementary list

DIPLOMAS 1948

Bee, Miss B. M. A., B.A. Brawn, Miss J. H., B.A. Craggs, Miss P. F., B.A. Du Toit, Miss S. W. R., B.A. Handley, Miss A. D., M.A. Hewitt, Miss E. O., B.A. Inskip, Mrs C. A., M.A. Levy, Miss G., B.A., B.ED., PH.D. McDowell, Miss J. M. B., B.A. Spohr, Dr O. H., PH.D. van Heerden, Mr J. H., B.A. Wookey, Miss D. M., B.A.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE Craig, Miss B. J., B.A.

AFDELING SPESIALE BIBLIOTEKE

S. A. B. V. Suid-Transvaalse Tak

Deel 2

Oktober 1948

No. 2

SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

III. THE LIBRARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

N. E. McGrath

BOOKS are of least importance in many special libraries, and the Library of the South African Institute for Medical Research is one of these that may well be termed "libraries without books". When the foremost requirement is to supply up-to-the-minute information on special aspects of a particular subject, then journals, pamphlets, reports and series take pride of place over books. The problem of getting such information into the library and also, what is just as important, making it available to the persons requiring it, is one which requires measures beyond the normal routine duties of every library. These are the factors which most strongly differentiate a special from a public library.

For the sake of brevity any user of the library shall be termed "researcher", the word which was used thus by W. B. McDaniel in his entertaining article "The researcher, the searcher, and research", 1 and I cannot do better at this point than quote his definitions of the researcher and the librarian. The former is "the dweller in the ivory tower. . . . He has been odd since childhood. When he grew up he found a ready-made world of specialization, which suited him well. Now he was able to grind in and learn more and more about less and less. There was always somebody around to help him to maintain contact with the outer world. . . . your librarian, let us say." And the librarian—"The librarian, first, is the one who is expected to know all the answers; or, let me say, to have an answer to every conceivable question. . . . He is often a little scatterbrained, perhaps, almost always overworked, trying desperately hard to please, usually making something out of nothing (and often nothing out of something), being told little and therefore knowing little, asking little and giving much."

The following are a few suggestions of methods one might use in order to bridge the gap between the researcher and the mass of printed material so essential to his work.

¹ McDaniel, W. B. The researcher, the searcher, and research. (In College of physicians of Philadelphia. Trans. 4. ser. 15(5)124–27, Dec. 1947.)

Current journals

There are two main principles upon which a routine for handling current journals is generally based. (1) Current journals must be readily available for consultation; they must not be taken out of the library by any one person until a certain period has elapsed. (2) Each researcher must have the opportunity of perusing the journals at his leisure. These objects may be attained by having current journals displayed during the hours when the library is open and loaned to individual researchers overnight only. A further method of assisting the researcher in tackling the material published in journals, which sometimes reach the library in most dishearteningly large numbers, is by drawing up a contents list of the articles appearing in these journals. Instead of accessioning and displaying each journal as it arrives, put aside new issues for a week and then handle the week's journals as one group. Page through each issue and select any articles which are likely to be of interest to researchers; list these articles. We have found a convenient form of entry in this list to be: subject word, author and title, journal reference. Copies of this list are distributed to researchers, who are able to tell almost at a glance whether there is anything new of special interest to them. If there is, they may either make a point of reading the particular articles whilst the journals are still on display, or they may reserve them for such time as they become available for loan. Of course, this does not in any way eliminate the necessity for circulating the journals; it is supplementary to this very important practice, and serves as an aid to those who do not have the time to go through all current journals themselves.

Index to journals

There are few bibliographical tools so indispensable to researchers as indexes to periodical literature. The main drawback is that indexes cannot be published simultaneously with the journals themselves. There is inevitably a time-lag with the publication of indexes, be it only a few months or a full year. It is, therefore, advisable to compile a temporary index to the journals received by the library in order to cover the period from the date of the latest published index to the date of the latest journal received. This may be very easily and rapidly effected if a contents list to current journals is made. Cut up one of these lists into its various entries, and paste the entries on to cards; on each card type the appropriate subject word or heading. Then file the cards alphabetically to form a card index. The index will be to subject only, and not to author. It will provide the librarian with the answer to such questions as: "What is your latest material on poliomyelitis", or: "I read

an article in one of the recent journals on penicillin toxicity. Could you please find it for me." When the printed index is received the entries in the card index are checked against it and all entries listed in the printed index are discarded. Thus the temporary card index never grows too unwieldy, for it is limited to articles published within the last year.

We have often wondered whether this method of keeping up-to-date a specialized index might not be extended to a general national index to periodical literature. A recent article entitled "A project for a periodicals indexing service" by Dr M. Plant describes how it may in fact be done. In this interesting and very practical article Dr Plant shows how an effective indexing service may be maintained by decentralizing the work, and with the co-operation of libraries throughout the country. The ideas put forward might be adapted to a dictionary index of South African periodicals (very briefly) thus:—Certain journals would be allocated to a library subscribing to them—popular periodicals to public libraries, zoological to a museum library, medical to one of the medical libraries, and so on. Each of these libraries undertakes to make a contents list of each issue as soon as it is received, indicating author, title, bibliographical details, journal reference, and subject headings (according to a selected subject headings list). These contents lists are immediately forwarded to the central body, where the author cards are typed and subject entries added to the existing subject cards. This would entail very little work for the contributing libraries, and should make a great difference in lightening the work of the central body, and speeding up the publication of the yearly index.

Reprints

No matter how specialized a field of study may be, there is invariably overlapping with related fields of science. Since a library cannot possibly receive regularly all the periodical literature of these related fields, we have to rely on two valuable means of discovering and obtaining any such material likely to be of value, namely abstracts and reprints.

Apart from those journals devoted to abstracts alone, many journals publish abstracts in addition to original articles on their particular subjects. It is advisable for the librarian to read through these abstracts and select articles which would appear to contain information of interest to researchers. Reprints of such articles are readily obtained from the author, and a request at the same time that any other material on the same subject may be sent to the library will ensure that the library receives future material by that author on the particular subject.

¹ PLANT, M. A project for a periodicals indexing service. (In British society for international bibliography. Procs. 9(5)57–66, 17 Dec. 1947.)

Once reprints are received, and circulated to researchers interested, they may be kept in a vertical file by subject, or alphabetically by author. There is much to be said for both methods, but whichever is used it is very doubtful whether the cataloguing of reprints serves any useful purpose, particularly if they are indexed in a published index to periodical literature. Where there is indiscriminate cataloguing the catalogue becomes an unwieldy mass of useless data and countless joint-author entries, overwhelming and often obscuring the really useful information. Selective cataloguing is perhaps the best solution; catalogue all pamphlets but only those reprints which are important contributions to their subject or which form the only source of information which the library has on a certain subject.

Personal aspect

Any methods a librarian may evolve in an effort to bring published material to the notice of researchers is based on the assumption that she knows what the researcher wants, and therefore knows what to look out for. This is an assumption made by most researchers. It is most important that the librarian should try to establish a personal contact and see to it that she is kept well-informed of the work of researchers. She should not limit her work to the acquiring and circulation of published material, but should make it known that the library's services are available in the preparation of reading lists or bibliographies; checking references; making copies of extracts from articles, or of whole articles if necessary; having translations made, and assisting in any other way possible. It is by doing such extra tasks that the librarian becomes better acquainted with the needs of the researchers, and at the same time helps to make researchers conscious of the possible assistance that may be obtained from their library.

The Library of the South African Institute for Medical Research is intended to serve the members of the staff of the Institute. Reading facilities and services are extended to other accredited persons, and loan privileges are available through the State Library's inter-library loan scheme.

The collection consists of approximately 2,000 books devoted chiefly to bacteriology, pathology, entomology and biochemistry; 200 journals received currently, and listed in the *Catalogue of Union periodicals*; approximately 5,000 pamphlets and reprints; reports of government departments, and publications of medical institutions throughout the world.

Lists of recent acquisitions of books and current journals are distributed to the members of the Institute staff and to any other interested persons. The Library also undertakes the distribution of publications issued by the Institute.

IV. CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUING IN A SPECIAL LIBRARY

I. R. LLOYD

Railway Headquarters Library, Johannesburg

From time to time, when special librarians get together, and occasionally in journals devoted to special library practice, the view is expressed that original classification schemes compiled to suit the needs of a specific library are to be preferred to the standard systems. The main reason given is that a special library would need to use only a very small part of one of the universal systems but would still be obliged to use its somewhat lengthy and complicated notations. A special library is not concerned with the whole field covered by the knowledge amassed by mankind through the centuries and, in any case, special librarians are not always fortunate enough to have allocated to them a fully trained library staff capable of coping effectively with classification according

to one of the standard systems,

The Railway Administration prefers to transfer to the Reference Library likely applicants from within the Service when vacancies occur. But even if trained staff were available it would be no improvement to convert the existing system. At the inception of the Library over thirty years ago, it was thought best to devise a simple system which would meet our needs. This proved to be a wise policy. The only criticism that can be levelled against it is that, as the Library grew, new main heads were not made to provide for material which would have been better classed in places other than the existing heads. Lack of staff was mainly responsible for this. With staff increases agreed to, however, it was decided to clean up by expanding the original classification and at the same time to build up a new card catalogue. This work is now in progress and the results to date show the new system to be a big improvement on the old. As may well be imagined, the work of compiling an original scheme is a formidable one and is a task not to be attempted unless one is perfectly sure that the labour involved will be well rewarded. The functions of special libraries differ from one to another; every individual librarian must, therefore, decide upon the most advantageous arrangement of his material, and if he is going to use an original classification scheme he must ensure that it is expansive, flexible, and consistent.

These aims have, we think, been realized in the scheme now being put into operation in the Railway Library. Its main concern is to bring into close relationship the subjects which experience has shown should be juxtaposed for the convenience of the particular class of people who use the library. Speed in producing required information is a prime consideration; hence simplicity in cataloguing and classification is essential.

The system used at Railway Headquarters makes provision for one thousand main heads which are distinguished by the numbers 000 to 999. By no means all of these are taken up, in fact many gaps have been left deliberately so that new subjects may be incorporated at any time in what would be, for us, their logical or most useful positions. In our card catalogue, too, some deviations from normal practice will be observed, but here, as in the classification, we have adopted the procedure best suited to our needs. Superfluities have been elimi-

nated while all the essential information is given.

Main headings are freely used, and only when the growth of a section warrants it is the head broken down into subdivisions or even into additional subject headings according to the importance of the section. We work on the principle that subject headings should be adequate and fully representative of the Railway's multifarious interests. As an instance, it is important for us that Government documents should be readily available; consequently each Province is self-contained and all our holdings for any one of them are grouped together and distinguished by sub-numbers for pre-Union and post-Union publications. Similarly, a separate section is devoted to Union Government publications from 1910 onwards. By means of a decimal point any subject is analysed into sub-divisions to any desired extent from 1 onwards. A second and final number is affixed but this has nothing to do with the classification itself. It merely locates the order of books in a section and serves to identify any publication exactly. A few examples will be given later.

The card catalogue is divided into separately filed sections:—

A. The shelf list B. The author section

C. The subject section D. The cross reference section.

The shelf list cards are arranged in the usual manner in strict numerical order, as the publications stand on the shelves. The title is shown exactly as it appears on the title page of the book, and the department in whose possession it is shown. The author card reflects all details about the book which are essential to our needs. In addition to the ordinary record the department holding the book is shown, together

CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUING IN A SPECIAL LIBRARY

with our order number, and the number of copies. On the back of this card is shown the location of all the other cards in the different sections of the catalogue. In the subject section a card is made out for each division where the book may be searched for and, finally, has been found an invaluable aid in this library to make full references.

In this necessarily brief article much that might have been discussed has been left unsaid. It is not suggested that the procedures used in this library would suit the needs of others. Indeed, the great interest of special libraries arises from their diversity, and the measure of success attained depends upon the extent to which the librarian has had an opportunity for experiment in harnessing his methods to his requirements. In cases where a special library consists chiefly of concise items of information such as specifications, technical data not in book form, pamphlets, etc., it would probably be best to use a minutely detailed system such as the Universal Decimal Classification in spite of its rather involved notation, but with a heterogeneous mass of material to deal with, such as we have in the Railway Reference Library, I have no hesitation in saying that a scheme which has been "made to measure" is better.

Below are some examples from our card catalogue which will illustrate and amplify what has been said above. These examples have been chosen at random and are representative of the system.

Examples

- 123. RAILWAY ENGINEERING (Main head)
- 123.2 Permanent way (Sub-head)
- 123.2.1 Elements of curve design for road, railway, and racing track on natural transition principles. F. G. Royal-Dawson
- 180. HARBOURS AND SHIPPING (Main head)
- 180.1 Ocean transportation (General) (Sub-head)
- 180.1.8 The shipping world afloat and ashore. J. A. Todd
- 121. LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERING (Main head)
- 121.2 Steam locomotives (Sub-head)
- 121.2.6. Articulated locomotives. L. Weiner

It will be noted how the figure after the last decimal point identifies the individual book. A further example in railway engineering is (a book on permanent way):

123.2.13 Switch layouts and curve easements. A. Torrey

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MANCE, Sir H. O.

Road and rail transport problem.

1940.

114.1.10

Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., London.

Library. O/No. 1698. b/c.

This is an example of the author card. Publisher is shown, where the book is located, office, order number, and "b/c" indicates that it is a bound book.

The back of the card indicates the position of all the other cards which have been prepared and filed for this publication; capital letters indicate subject card, lower case cross reference cards.

TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION

Rail

Road

Transport

TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION

Road and rail transport problem.

1940.

114.1.10

Mance.

(Subject card)

Rail and road transport problem

1940.

114.1.10

Mance.

(Cross reference card)

Road and rail transport problem

1940.

114.1.10

Mance.

(Cross reference card)

Transport problem, road and rail.

1940.

114.1.10

(Cross reference card.)

The final figure 10 indicates that this book is the tenth book in section 114.1, "Transport Co-ordination".

AFDELING SKOOL- EN KINDERBIBLIOTEKE

Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

Deel 9

Oktober 1948

No. 2

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN SCHOOL LIBRARIES VACATION COURSE,

1947

M. J. ZEEMAN, Zonnebloem College

(A VACATION course on school libraries was held at the University of Cape Town at the end of the last term of 1947. Teachers came from all four provinces, and from South-West Africa.

To provide a fitting background for the course, the staff of the University Library arranged a number of displays, of which the most important was the fitting up of one corner of the reading room as a model school library. A specimen collection was arranged here with all necessary accessories of shelf guides, catalogue, and a model display such as a school might do to encourage reading on a particular topic. Nearby the mechanical processes of accessioning and cataloguing were shown in numbered order, with sample entries.

Every endeavour was made to keep the course as practical as possible.

This is an account of the course as seen through the eyes of one of the teachers who attended it.)

There is always something stimulating in acquiring inside information about other people's jobs, and the University of Cape Town's School Libraries Vacation Course proved no exception to this. The library staff had arranged eight and a half days concentrated study which initiated us into the mysteries of cataloguing and of the Dewey decimal system of classification, the science of studying publishers' book lists and reference books, and the cleaning and mending of books, as well as giving a fund of general information on the running and organizing of school libraries.

The prominent educationalists who took part in the course included Inspector O. P. Truter, of the Cape Department of Education, and Professors Burger and Grant, of the University of Cape Town. Mr Truter supplied information about school libraries in the Cape, while Professors Burger and Grant gave amusingly illustrated accounts of the place of the school library in the modern educational system.

Mr Immelman, of the Jagger Library, explained the functions of the school library and gave the general principles of its organization. From Mr R. F. Kennedy, of the Johannesburg Public Library, we learnt of the children's library organization in Johannesburg, where the schools are served by a central library supplying both books for children and advice for teachers. Mr D. H. Varley, of the South African Public Library, told some amusing anecdotes of children's reading interests, and also drew our attention to the vandalism perpetrated on reference books by children in search of illustrations for themes.

The four lectures on cataloguing and classification given by Mr Milburn and Miss Taylor, and the four practical periods supervised by the staff, gave a clear and concise summary of the Dewey system, sufficient to guide us over the main pitfalls of classifying a school collection. But how much can we use it? Many of the teachers present thought an elaborate scheme of classification quite unnecessary for the small collections in use in schools, where there are seldom more than four or five small shelves given to each subject, and any child wanting a book finds it much easier to look on the shelf marked "Europe" in the Geography cupboard than to hunt through the catalogue. On the other hand, I think those of us who control larger school libraries will try to introduce the system because of the valuable training it will give the pupils in finding their way about university or public libraries, and even those who do not use Dewey in their own collections will find a knowledge of the scheme most useful in explaining the use of public libraries to their pupils.

Several interesting expeditions were arranged in the afternoons. We visited the South African College and the Observatory Boys' High School Libraries. We saw two demonstrations of book repairing and cleaning. Mr Paul Jones, of the Jagger Library, manipulated a fascinating array of Gaylord gadgets, and Mr B. Coleman, of the South African Public Library, astonished us by splitting paper in order to mount both sides of it, and by doing completely invisible mending with the aid of a little paste and tissue paper. Other interesting visits included the Springbok Library and the University Photographic Department,

where we saw lantern slides and photostats in the making.

Miss Taylor and Miss Goldblatt, lecturing in English and Afrikaans respectively, gave some most informative talks on children's literature, comprising advice on how to recognize good paper and binding, the type of illustrations popular with children, and the best authors and books in the various classes of children's literature from picture books and fairy tales to travel and handicrafts.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES VACATION COURSE

The parts of the course which I considered most useful were the exceedingly practical lectures given by Miss Green and Mr Marais on organizing the school library, and by Miss Taylor on library publicity and teaching the use of books. These lectures started off with an account of the use of non-book material which can be collected easily and cheaply. We saw a picture collection, and were told of unlikely places to find pictures and were shown how to mount them. We heard of the collection of newspaper cuttings and pamphlets and were shown how to file them in order to build up a most useful file of current information. We were given titles of book-lists and periodicals giving reliable reviews to aid in selection of books, and hints about the ordering and recording of new books. Two helpful suggestions were made about the arrangement of the library room: the person responsible for issuing books should be placed near the door, to prevent leakages, and there should be a washbasin, to prolong the life of books by avoiding dirty finger-marks. Then followed the mechanics of running a library. We learned about methods of taking stock, the merits of the different issuing systems, the importance of a few comprehensible and strictly enforced rules, and the value of an efficient prefect-system which relieves the teacher of all the routine tasks and leaves her free for the important work of guiding readers.

Miss Taylor suggested several useful means of making children interested in the library: appreciation lessons in which extracts from books are read, book reviews written by the children themselves, and class instruction in how to find and use books. I was particularly interested in the suggestions for the arrangement of displays of books and pictures grouped round any centre of interest to bring unread books to the notice of the children. Lists of books on display can be cyclostyled, and we were shown some most attractive booklets made by folding the paper in four, so that the list came in the centre, and the outside formed an attractive "book-jacket" complete with design. Copies of these lists can be kept after the display is broken up, for guiding future readers interested in the same topic. A suggestion for securing the co-operation of the teachers was the starting of a library service, by which the teacher-librarian finds out in advance what reference books the teachers want for their own use, and the subject on which they would like books provided for their classes. The difficulty here is that most teachers have not the time for finding the books, but if principals would give the teacher-librarians sufficient periods to carry out an efficient library service, the teachers' lessons would be more interesting and the children would learn to educate them-

selve from books.

SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

The University of Cape Town has one of the most beautiful situations in South Africa, and we much appreciated the opportunity of discussing our problems with others, and of making new friendships in such lovely and comfortable surroundings. All of us are most grateful to Mr Immelman and the staff of the School of Librarianship for organizing this course with such care and wealth of preparation, and for giving us their sympathy, encouragement, and friendship.

DIE SKOOLBIBLIOTEEK

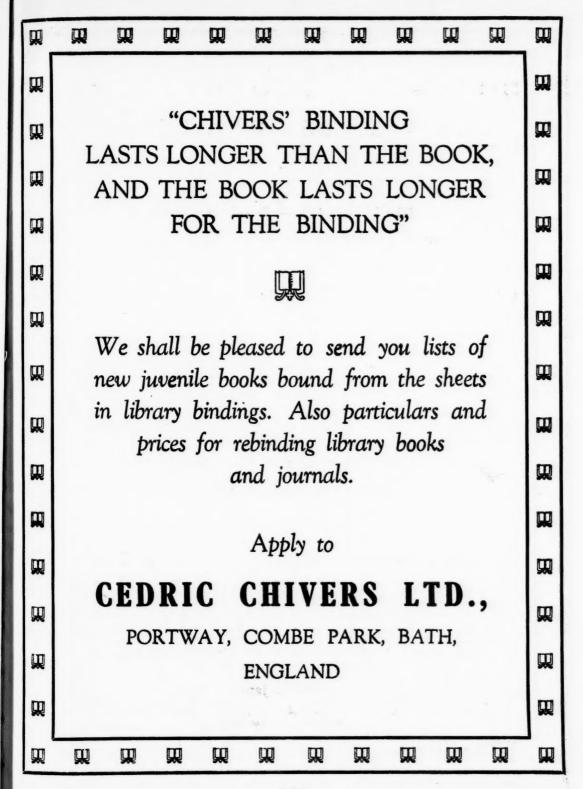
Op 20 Mei 1948 het mevr. E.C. de Wet, Opsienster van Skool- en Normaalkollege-Biblioteke in Transvaal, 'n praatjie gelewer aan die Konferensie van Inspekteurs van Onderwys. Die praatjie is gedruk in die Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement se *Omsendbrief* 14(3)66–72, derde kwartaal 1948.

Benewens 'n bondige inleiding oor die doelstelling van die skoolbiblioteek word 'n aantal skerpsinnige opmerkings gegee betreffende die beheer daarvan. Daar word nadruk op gelê dat die biblioteek nie as 'n ekstra las vir die onderwyser of as nog 'n vak in die leerplan beskou moet word nie, maar as 'n metode vir elke vak. Die keuse van geskikte boeke word bespreek, en gewag word gemaak van 'n moontlike Boekegids vir skole. Sy raak ook aan 'n plan om 'n sentrale sirkulerende boekery in te stel vir die hele provinsie (enigsins volgens die stelsel van die Johannesburgse Openbare Biblioteek en die Germistonse Openbare Biblioteek se skoolbiblioteekskema), om die vaste boekerye van die skole aan te vul. Hierby word die instelling van 'n sentrale biblioteek in elke skool bepleit teenoor afsonderlike klasversamelings.

Ten slotte word die belangrikheid van doeltreffende deskundige beheer van die skoolbiblioteek behandel, en spr. vertel dat sy besig is aan 'n eenvoudige leidraad vir die onderwyser-bibliotekaris.¹

Dieselfde Omsendbrief bevat (bl. 86–88) uitvoerige aanbevelings vir die ontwerp en uitrusting van biblioteke by hoër-en junior-hoër-skole. Die aanbevelings maak deel uit van 'n verslag van 'n Departementele Komitee. Die Komitee meen dat wanneer 'n nuwe gebou of biblioteekkamer opgerig moet word, behoort 'n bedrag van ongeveer £500 afgesonder te word vir die uitrusting van die biblioteek.

¹ Sindsdien verskyn as: Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement. Wenke vir die skoolbiblioteek/ Suggestions for the school library. Pretoria, Staatsdrukker, 1948. 49bl. 24sm. Papieromslag. Afrikaans en Engels parallel. Verkrybaar van die Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement, Posbus 432, Pretoria.





Published Quarterly by the SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Edited from the University, Johannesburg

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